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REPORT

NATIONAL VICTORY GARDEN CONFERENCE

U. S. Department of Agriculture Auditorium

Washington, D. C.

November 28 - 29, 1944

WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
Extension Service

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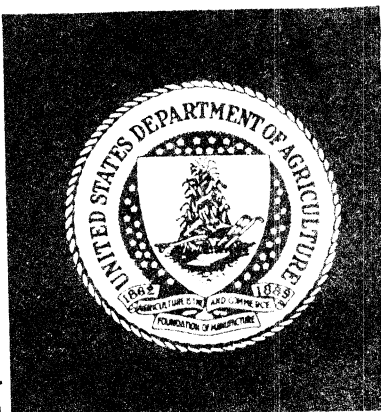
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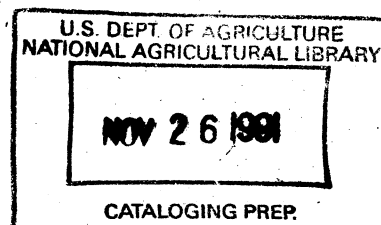


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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
Extension Service  
Washington 25, D. C.

PROGRAM

NATIONAL VICTORY GARDEN CONFERENCE

November 28-29, 1944

Department of Agriculture Auditorium,  
South Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, S.W.,  
Washington, D.C.

This National Victory Garden Conference is being held to bring about a better understanding of our food needs for next year and the part Victory Gardens should play in producing adequate supplies of health-protecting foods on the home front. This conference, widely representative of educational, scientific, trade and garden leaders, press and radio, can contribute much to the development of a sound program for 1945.

DEC 19 1944 There are certain post-war and long-time aspects of gardening which should receive full consideration by those attending the conference. Perhaps never before were there better opportunities to begin the development of a wider appreciation of the need for more healthful and beautiful surroundings in America generally. Starting with home ground beautification and proceeding to civic improvement, housing developments, park and roadside development, and city planning, we in this conference can do much to make the beginnings of a nation-wide post war expansion in these fields.

The conference is planned as a work conference. Five principal committees will be organized to review certain large problems, and to bring to the conference a report of recommendations for each major subject for discussion and acceptance. These reports will later be given wide distribution to the leaders in the garden movement generally, and should serve in guiding the Victory Garden program and other garden programs in years to come.

Each person in registering should designate the committee on which he would like to serve, naming both first and second choice. The conference committee reserves the option of changing committee assignments in order to be sure that such committees will be truly representative of the various interests concerned.

PROGRAM

November 28

10:00 a.m. Purpose and Plan of Conference  
Town and Farm People Still Need  
a Better Home Food Supply  
Conference Chairman - Hon. Prentice Cooper  
Governor of Tennessee

10:30-10:45 Why We Should Keep on With our Home Gardens  
Judge Marvin Jones, War Food Administrator

10:45-11:10 Gardens Now and After Victory  
M. L. Wilson, Director of Extension Work

11:10-11:30 A Suggested Victory Garden Program for 1945  
H. W. Hochbaum, Extension Service

11:30-12:00 How To Make America More Beautiful  
Richardson Wright, Editor in Chief,  
House and Garden

12:00-12:30 Gardening in an Army Hospital  
Mrs. Stephen J. Van Hoesen  
New York City

12:30 Completing Registrations

12:40 Noon Recess

2:00-2:30 p.m. The Need for More Home Fruit Planting  
J. H. Gourley, Chairman, Department of  
Horticulture, Ohio State University

2:30-3:00 Our Present and Post-War Needs for Industrial  
Gardens  
Lester J. Norris, Illinois Food Director

3:00-3:15 Announcements and instructions to committees

3:15- Committee Conferences

November 29

9:00 a.m. Committee Conferences and Preparation of  
Report of Recommendations

2:00 p.m. General Session - Auditorium  
Presentation of Committee Reports  
Discussion  
Acceptance  
Announcements  
Adjournment

Committees

1. A Victory Garden Program for 1945

Room 1409

Chairman -

E. L. D. Seymour, Horticultural Editor  
The American Home

2. A Program for More Home Fruit Planting

Room 4204

Chairman -

T. J. Talbert - Horticulture and Forestry Department,  
University of Missouri

3. Suggested Present and Post-War Programs in Urban  
Home Grounds and Civic Improvement

Nov. 28 Room 3106

Nov. 29 Rm. 124 East Wing

Chairman -

Paul Krone - Extension Horticulturist  
Michigan

4. Suggested Present and Post-War Rural Home Grounds  
and Community Improvement

Nov. 28 Rm. 201 Adm. Bldg.

Nov. 29 Auditorium

Chairman -

A. O. Rasmussen - Extension Horticulturist  
Pennsylvania

5. Organizing, Sponsoring, and Promoting Victory  
and Post-War Garden and Improvement Programs

Nov. 28 Room 6962

Nov. 29 Room 5441

Chairman -

E. G. Moore - U. S. Department of Agriculture

V I C T O R Y   G A R D E N S   I N   1 9 4 5

Statement by Judge Marvin Jones, War Food Administrator, before the National Victory Garden Conference, Washington, D.C., November 28, 1944, at 10:30 a.m., E.W.T.

It is with genuine pleasure that I welcome this group of gardeners and garden leaders. We in the War Food Administration are grateful to you and all of the millions of other gardeners who helped to keep America well fed in the last three years. I know that many of you have been giving your time unselfishly to the task of organizing and teaching people to grow a part of their own food. I need not tell you that your efforts have been successful; the evidence has been all around us, on farms, in villages, in towns, and even in the heart of many big cities.

With the year's bountiful harvest almost over, it is time to start making plans for next year. In view of the fact that our food situation is good, some people have been asking whether we should continue the garden program next year. To my mind the answer to this question is very simple; the answer is yes. Before this group, it is not necessary for me to go into the reasons why we should continue the garden program next year. The reasons are the same as in the past, although we do not anticipate that gardeners need be called upon next year to make up for any actual food shortage. I know you are here to help us work up the broad outlines of next year's program, and we welcome your help.

About a week ago we announced the goals that we are suggesting to the States for food production next year. These goals call for another year of full production. We are asking the farmers to equal the marvelous production record of 1944, and while we have not suggested a goal for Victory Gardens, gardeners on farms and in cities would do well next year to equal their own good record of this year.

Entirely apart from the war needs for food, I realize that many of our people will want to continue gardening. Those who have good locations and who have learned the art of gardening can grow their own vegetables - in many cases cheaper than they can buy them. They have also discovered that vegetables taste better fresh from their own gardens, and because of this their families are eating more vegetables and enjoying a more healthful diet than they might otherwise have. These people have also discovered that gardening is one of the most satisfying forms of recreation.

I would like to say, at this point, that we are not concerned only with encouragement of gardening in 1945. The Department of Agriculture and the State Extension Services have been advocating more and better farm gardens for many years. I think we should continue our gardens - not only for the food, but for the deep satisfaction they yield. And for the war years the extra food produced by town and city gardeners might be looked upon as insurance - insurance that we will have enough of the health-giving fresh vegetables.

In planning goals for food production on the nation's farms we have had to face the fact that the price of enough may be temporary surpluses here and there, and these surpluses are often difficult to handle. But Victory Gardeners have done a remarkably good job of taking care of their own surplus. What

they could not consume fresh they have given to their neighbors or canned, frozen, dried, or stored for later use.

The Victory Garden Program is one of the finest illustrations we have had in this war of a job that civilians at home can do to back up the boys who are fighting. Working in a garden for an hour or two at the end of a busy day spent in an office or factory has provided a wonderful balance wheel to millions who have worked day after day at war jobs with little or no vacation or recreation. Contact with the earth, and with growing things, is good for all of us, especially in times like these when we are all working so hard in the jobs assigned to us.

With your help and guidance I feel sure we shall have another successful year of gardening.

In the early days Texas cattlemen drove their herds to markets in Kansas. They had to travel across a strip of Indian territory that is now part of the State of Oklahoma. In those days this strip of country was known as No-Man's Land. Folks who had gotten into trouble with the law sometimes settled there. I have heard old timers say that the Southwestern cattlemen on their way home had to be rather careful about selecting a place to spend the night. They always looked for a place that had a garden, knowing that people who grew gardens would be safe hosts for the night.

. . . . . I recall a quotation from a statement made by David Lloyd George during the first World War. I believe it is just as true today as when he uttered it. He said, "This war will be won by the side that thinks it can win 15 minutes longer than the other side." We can't afford to slow down now when victory is almost within our grasp. History shows that nations with ample food supplies are ones that win victories. We cannot afford to gamble. We must do everything we can to make certain that every one of our fighting men has all the food he needs. Food is just as necessary as guns, tanks and planes. Home gardeners produced over 40 per cent of the fresh vegetable supply this year and we are asking them to equal this record in 1945.

. . . . . Three months ago there was much optimism that the war would be over before the end of this year. This hope has now been pretty well discounted. We have no grounds for believing that the Germans will stop fighting until they reach the bitter end. This is added reason for keeping up production in our Victory Gardens.

Marvin Jones



Gardening After Victory 1/

By M. L. Wilson  
Director of Cooperative Extension Work  
War Food Administration  
United States Department of Agriculture

Three years ago this month many of you received an invitation from the Department of Agriculture to attend a National Defense Gardening Conference. Before the conference took place our Nation found itself at war. You went home knowing that you had been one of a hundred or so garden leaders who had given Victory gardening its name.

The Victory Garden movement of the second World War will go down in history as one of the greatest civilian activities ever stimulated and organized by man. Not only in this country have we had more than 20 million Victory Gardeners in both 1943 and 1944, but in England and Russia, and in many other parts of the world. The Victory Garden movement has been recognized as a source of necessary food and health and strength of people everywhere engaged in fighting our common foes.

And at this time let me join with Judge Jones and the entire War Food Administration in expressing appreciation to all of you; to all horticultural societies, garden societies and to the editors of the garden magazines, horticultural publications, farm papers, newspapers and radio program managers; to teachers at both agricultural colleges and the public schools, and to cooperative extension workers; to the National Victory Garden Committee of which Governor Cooper is chairman; and to the more than 20 million gardeners for the splendid contribution made to the Nation's war effort. No chairman of any wartime activity has given more time and energy, and been more instrumental in exercising a more constructive leadership than has your national chairman. The success of the Victory Garden movement has been in no small way due to his successful guidance.

After three successful years of Victory gardening, we meet here this year knowing that the war is not over. We know that General Eisenhower and our military leaders are pressing hard for Victory, but always with the thought uppermost to do the job with the least loss of human lives. Whether the war will be over this winter or whether it will carry well into next year, we here on the home

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1/ Address before the National Victory Garden Conference given in the Auditorium of the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., November 28, 1944

front know that there will be a real, sustained interest in Victory Gardens in 1945.

I assure you that such will be the case out beyond Chevy Chase, Maryland, on some undeveloped garden land where the Wilsons, together with about ten other families, had their Victory Garden this year. The truth is that, when we came here from the West, 11 years ago, we somehow got out of the gardening habit. Soils and temperatures around Washington are not the most favorable for the kind of good family garden we used to have in Iowa and Montana. The war, however, taught us that, as long as one goes about studying soil, moisture, and temperature conditions, and mixes this knowledge with a great deal of physical work, one can be as successful a gardener here in the Washington area as anywhere else in the United States. Yes, the Wilsons had a garden in 1943. We had a good one in 1944. And we hope to have an even better one in 1945. And the Wilsons are typical of hundreds of thousands of other families who have had gardens during the war.

#### Health Objective Predominates

We have every reason to hope that the 1945 National Victory Garden program will be every bit as successful as last year's and this year's. I have, in the past, stressed the importance of people working in wartime offices and industry having gardens in order to enjoy fresh vegetables when they want them, as they need them. Studies made by nutrition committees and those conducting opinion surveys show only too well that without their own gardens, many people would today be living on inadequate diets. Even when the war is over, millions of families should be encouraged to continue gardening, because they will need their limited incomes for buying other things. So much for the purely nutritional and physical aspects of gardening for health.

The arguments from the nutrition <sup>health</sup> aspects are just as sound now as they have been in the past. But there is another factor which, as far as the bulk of middle-income Victory gardeners are concerned, is far more important. For a great many big-income and middle-income families, there really isn't much to the argument that gardening provides vitamins and good nutrition. These can be bought if we are able to pay the price. Of course, if we pay cash for vegetables -- say \$50 a year -- then we have that much less cash for something else. But Victory gardening has one other health factor which can't be bought, especially during these times when sons are in battle overseas and when all of us are under the nervous tension of wartime living.

As we have gone on with the war, there has been an increasing interest on the part of the medical profession in the psychological factors that play an important part in total health. Medical journals, and even the lay press,

have in recent months presented articles on so-called psychosomatic medicine and emphasized its importance from the standpoint of the physician. I shall not go into details of psychosomatic medicine. That would be a job for a doctor of medicine. Briefly, it represents a scientific approach toward linking mind and body symptoms in diagnosing such ailments as stomach ulcers; illnesses resulting from vitamin B deficiency; and many others, the description of all of which we must leave to the medical profession. Reading about this field of medicine and health convinces one that every individual needs a certain amount of mental, or, perhaps, "spiritual" nutrition in order to keep on an even keel.

It is in the field of nerves and the mind, that Victory gardening has been of tremendous importance to all families, especially those of middle and higher bracket incomes, who work more with the nervous system than the muscular system. The best article on the basis of Victory gardening for mental health which I have read is one by Dr. Fredrick P. Moersch, of the Section on Neurology, at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota. The article bears the title, "Health and Contentment in Gardening." It is scientific, philosophical, and of literary quality. Mr. Hochbaum will provide you with mimeographed copies before you leave. The article appeared in the Minnesota Horticulturist of May 1943. I want to read briefly from it. I hope that all of you will study it in full. The following paragraphs are Dr. Moersch's: (I quote.)

"In this turmoil of unrest we, the people, must find ways and means of maintaining our mental stability so as to serve well and not hinder the war effort by avoidable ill health. Some of us engaged in the daily routine of work have acquired hobbies to meet our needs in the role of health. Many of us are struggling aimlessly in search of health and peace of mind. We can do without happiness but we do crave contentment. \* \* \*

"\* \* \* For the person who is on edge, anxious and sleepless, and has a heavy heart, there is no more hope-inspiring, restful, healthful recreation than gardening. One might speak properly of gardening as a 'work cure.' Physical health and mental health go hand in hand, and with our physical program of gardening we should be in a better position to maintain or gain mental health. This year, especially with all the enthusiasm regarding Victory Gardens, every beginner should have an added incentive in gardening. \* \* \*

"\* \* \* A single season should demonstrate one's love for gardening and the wisdom of expansion. The real purpose of gardening is not to be measured in the abundance of the flowers or of the fruits but rather in one's own efforts and in the execution of one's own plans. The very growth of the hobby fulfills the requirements for good mental health." (Unquote.)

Dr. Moersch's article gives, in my opinion, a potent argument as to why national emphasis on Victory gardening should be continued in 1945. He also points to a fundamental need for the continued interest in gardening after the war.

### Keep Movement Alive

The Victory Garden program represents a great movement stimulated by the war emergency. For a large segment of our people it has greatly raised nutritional standards. For the rest it points the way to greater assurance of total health, including mental and nervous stability. Therefore, let us encourage the enthusiasm unloosed by war and direct it toward a greater appreciation of gardening for gardening's sake. In doing this we are following the leadership of the urban garden movement. Garden clubs and horticultural societies have in the last two decades contributed much to this movement. As the country is beginning to speak of great post-war programs, gardening should find its proper place. More consideration should be given by those responsible for developing real estate projects; urban and rural zoning officials; State, county, and local officials; builders, architects, and citizens, in the great human potential that is hidden in the mysterious power of plants to beautify our surroundings. There is an awareness of the worth-whileness of life to be found in trees and shrubs and flowers properly arranged around our homes which can be found in no other work. The same is true in public parks, around business buildings, and along the streets and highways and railroad rights of way.

### Professional Help for Urban Gardeners

I would like to read from another article at this point. It was written by Dr. William J. Robbins, professor of botany at Columbia University and in charge of the Botanical Gardens at the Bronx in New York. The article appeared in the November 17 issue of Science. (I quote.)

"The opportunity to enjoy flowers, shrubs, and trees acts as an antidote for the artificiality and tension of city life, relieves the drabness and monotony so frequently associated with existence in a small town or in the country, and satisfies a deep-seated desire in all of us. \* \* \* We need nothing but our senses to enjoy the beauty of flowers, but the deeper satisfaction of knowing them and growing them requires a breadth of knowledge and experience surprising to the uninitiated. So long as any man out of employment is considered a capable gardener, and seed catalogues are looked upon as adequate texts, gardening is likely to be a series of disappointments which only the persistent will survive. Gardening as a profession requires training, practice and a body of special information, as other professions do, and the amateur, whether individual or corporate, does well to look to the professional for guidance and for help. \* \* \* In this country few institutions have as yet concerned themselves with this aspect of education, though in the post-war period there is going to be a considerable need for it." (Unquote.)

I should like to add this personal thought to what Dr. Robbins says. The Department of Agriculture, our agricultural colleges, our horticultural societies, our newspapers, and Victory gardeners everywhere have done a creditable job in stimulating interest and in getting others to join the craft of the rake and hoe. We know, however, that many an amateur Victory gardener might have lasted longer if he had had professional guidance such as that suggested by Dr. Robbins. So I want to lay before this conference the proposal that it consider the advisability of, and recommend, the appointment of urban extension agents professionally trained in gardening and horticulture, to serve urban gardeners with their many garden problems. State directors of extension have been advised that war food emergency funds may be used for the employment of such agents and have been urged to do so. If this type of service is to be a permanent thing after the war, the demand must, of course, come locally and through the sponsorship of organizations and institutions such as are here represented. Such extension agents would work with city and urban horticultural and garden groups like the county agricultural agent works with farm groups.

As Jefferson Saw It.

Before I close I want to call attention to the fact that the Thomas Jefferson Agricultural Bicentenary Committee, of which Secretary Wickard is the chairman, recommended last spring that this auditorium in which we are meeting be named the Thomas Jefferson Agricultural Auditorium. A suitable dedication will be held soon. In closing I would like, however, to quote what Jefferson said about botany and its applied practice of gardening. (I quote.)

"Botany ranks with the most valuable sciences whether we consider its subjects as furnishing the principal substances of life to man and beast, delicious varieties for our tables, refreshments for our orchards, the adornment of our flower-borders, shade and perfume of our groves, materials for our buildings or medicaments for our bodies."

Jefferson wrote those words 130 years ago when scientific knowledge about plants and plant life was still in its elementary stage. Since then we have discovered a vast amount of information about the great mysteries of plant life and the part they play in helping us live a healthful, longer, and more useful life. Jefferson was one of those few favored persons who can see far ahead of their own time.

Jefferson's love for gardening proceeded from an unseen faith that gardening and health were somehow linked together. His faith may have emanated from his own satisfaction derived from gardening. Today's knowledge about both physical

and spiritual health verifies Jefferson's feeling about gardening and provides us with a sound scientific justification. But, in addition to having learned from science that Jefferson was right, we also stand on the fortress of practical experience. In carrying on the battle for Victory through gardening, millions of gardeners, young and old, have revived an old custom which we hope may become a vital and much practiced art in the world of better living tomorrow.

# # #

A VICTORY GARDEN PROGRAM FOR 1945  
AND SUGGESTIONS FOR A POST WAR PROGRAM

H. W. Hochbaum

We are looking forward to 1945 with the hope that the Victory Garden program will be as successful as it was this year. And with your help in planning next year's program and the continued support of the thousands of individuals and organizations that made possible this year's successful program we believe that Victory Gardens can be as important in 1945 as in 1944.

We shall have enough food for civilian and non-civilian use in 1945 as in 1944. However, our Victory gardeners given favorable growing weather will be more sure that they will have adequate supplies of the kinds of vegetables they like best and when they want them. Home grown vegetables will aid in alleviating transportation and distribution problems which will continue to exist in 1945. Millions of Victory gardeners have learned the joys of stepping out into the garden and selecting for the day's meals several kinds of fresh vegetables of high quality. In fact, the flavor and quality of vegetables right from the garden to the table is often so superior to purchased vegetables that Victory gardeners found new delight in eating vegetables, and therefore ate more of them.

The Department and the Federal and State Extension Services always promoted home gardening before the war and will continue to do so when peace comes again. They are concerned not only with a garden program designed for the wartime emergency but with an enduring one that will continue to play an important role in everyday life.

Here in Washington, we are well along in our plans for the 1945 Victory Garden Program. For example, we are going to have an informational kit for the use of Extension people and for garden leaders to carry out local educational programs.

We are preparing to supply facts, articles and other materials to the national, state and local organizations that are interested in promoting good gardens -- men's, women's, youth, civic, fraternal and other organizations.

We are counting on extensive use of the information services of the Department of Agriculture and its agencies, including the use of the suitable periodicals published by the Department.

The Department will have available substantial quantities of Victory Garden publications to supplement those of the state colleges and others.

We will assist with Victory Garden radio programs for all available outlets. For example, the government sponsored program, "Hasten the Day," will feature Victory Gardens during the week of February 25 with transcriptions going to some 600 radio stations throughout the country. Additional transcriptions will be included in the series which is currently supplied to Extension Editors.

Two new Victory Garden motion pictures are being made by the Department for showing in the spring.

Advertising support will be enlisted through a new fact-and-idea service which will be made available to advertisers, advertising agencies and advertising media.

We plan to carry on an extensive program in the schools in cooperation with the Office of Education.

Here in the Department we are planning as a climax to next year's garden season a big harvest show in the patio of the Administration Building.

Time does not permit me to mention all of the preparations that are under way, but the examples I have cited will indicate to you that we are planning to use all facilities available to us that will contribute to the success of the Victory Garden Program for 1945.

Our studies show too well that many of our people live on wholly inadequate diets. The warnings of nutrition science that the poor physical condition of many, many people as a result of improper food habits must receive more attention. We know this condition exists with people who could well afford to buy fruits and vegetables needed to supply some of the required minerals and vitamins. But there are vast numbers who cannot afford the quantities of vegetables and fruits they should have. This may be all the more evident in wartime. A good size vegetable garden in the home yard, vacant lot or community garden, and of course on every farm, will make all the difference in the world in the family's food supply and its food habits. Even a small garden will yield \$25 to \$50 worth of fresh vegetables. In fact, this item of money saving is considered so important that 55% of the Victory gardeners interviewed in a recent survey said that this was the chief motive that impelled them to have a Victory garden. Furthermore, gardening for our city and town people is good fun and a most wholesome form of recreation.

So, all in all, we can hardly emphasize too much that home vegetable gardening where fertile, sunny ground is available should be carried on in normal times as well as in war, supplemented wherever possible by home fruit plantings. This year we have about 6 million farm gardens and something over 12 million non-farm gardens. Next year we should be able to do at least as well. And even these figures would not include all of the families that ought to have gardens.



Post war or long time garden programs should include plans for developing a wider appreciation of the need for making our surroundings more healthful, attractive, cheerful and beautiful. Such a program would involve far more than merely encouraging the planting of flowers. We need to create a deep desire for beautiful home grounds, for less congested housing areas, for more sunshine and greenery, for less grimy, cheerless, sordid city areas. We need to build a love for gardening and horticulture in the fibre of our people so that our home grounds will be made more beautiful and livable, our communities improved, our beautiful countryside preserved, parks, playgrounds and better housing developments provided for many of our city people now living in undesirable and unhealthy situations. Perhaps as never before, the conditions are right for this. First of all, millions of persons because of their Victory garden experience have come to be enthusiastic about gardening and things horticultural. Secondly, because of the war, it has not been possible to keep up and expand home and civic improvements.

Based on the considerations given above, a Victory garden program for 1945 and thereafter, may include the following principal recommendations:

#### I. CITY VICTORY GARDENS

All urban, suburban and rural town families having open, sunny fertile garden space in the home lot, or who have convenient access to good vacant lot or community gardens should have a Victory garden in 1945. Then they will be the more sure to have much larger supplies of needed health protecting and delectable foods every day at least during the growing season. The preparation of the daily meals will be the easier, money will be saved, and healthful recreation result. Victory gardeners during the past three years have contributed much to their own food supply and to the nation's. There is no reason why they may not continue.

#### II. FARM VICTORY GARDENS

Every farm with sufficient water supply should grow summer and fall gardens that will provide the family with a year around full supply of a variety of vegetables. While much progress has been made in this direction, we still have a long way to go in reaching the desired goal. This may be true especially on many small and low income farms, and where too often families suffer from nutritional deficiencies and diseases because of the lack of protective foods and poor food habits.

#### III. LONG SEASON GARDENS NEEDED

The recommendations of our nutrition scientists stress the need for seven basic food groups in a rational healthful diet. Three of these groups are comprised of vegetables and fruits, selected because they provide favorable amounts of certain so essential vitamins and minerals. Victory garden leaders, and all instructions for planning gardens, including those on seed packets and catalogues, may well continue to drive on the need for planning long season gardens. Such gardens ought to provide a maximum of the green and leafy vegetables, yellow vegetables and tomatoes in fresh, stored or preserved form.

#### IV. MORE HOME FRUIT GROWING

In addition to growing adequate vegetable supplies for home use, farms, rural town homes and some suburban homes, could produce, for home use, fruits which can be grown under local climatic and soil conditions. Strawberries, bush fruits and grapes can be grown fairly easily in many, many areas. Cherries, plums and perhaps other stone fruits, likewise, are adapted to many areas. Apple and pears, because of insects and disease are more difficult to produce successfully, but given attention will yield much fruit good for home use. Dwarf forms of these fruits, particularly, may be considered for small home plantations, because they may be more easily sprayed and cared for than ordinary stocks. The delights of home grown fruits were long appreciated in earlier days of our country. They need to be more appreciated again, especially as we now value their healthfulness so much more. On thousands and thousands of our farms, the utter lack of home grown fruit is deplorable to say the least. Too often when such homes do not grow some fruit, but little is purchased, and families are deprived of zestful and healthful food.

#### V. EMPLOYEE GARDENS

Every encouragement should be given manufacturing plants, public utility and industrial concerns to promote and provide vegetable gardens for their employees. Better health will result because of the better food and outdoor recreation obtained, and improved personnel relations result. When research indicated that 32½ percent of the employees of a large manufacturing plant showed less than a safe amount of Vitamin C in the blood, employers may well take notice. The provisions many large concerns have made for maintaining employee gardens is highly recommended. This work needs to be continued and expanded now, and after peace comes.

#### VI. MORE SCHOOL GARDENS

The schools have made good progress in providing instruction in gardening, and life size garden space for pupils. However, school officials, garden club leaders and other garden agencies could really do much to expand the opportunities for garden instruction. The example set by Cleveland and other cities in which gardening has a firm place in the curriculum might well be followed more generally. Much still has to be done by the schools in this field so important in building life long interests and attitudes.

#### VII. KEEP VACANT LOT GARDENS GROWING

Community and vacant lot gardens need to be maintained wherever garden conditions are favorable. The leaders of such projects in some areas are making it possible to bring water to such garden plots, improve the plowing and soil fitting, and are fertilizing with manures, sludge, vegetable matter. So many weedy, rubbish strewn, unsightly vacant lot areas have been transformed into sightly and productive areas, that it does not seem we should go back to the old disorder. Moreover, these gardens have become centers of neighborliness and community spirit. Without them many, many urban people could not have a garden or have as many vegetables for their tables. Persons of low incomes especially

should have more facilities of this kind made available for them. Garden leaders, real estate owners, park authorities, city recreation departments, the local press and every possible sponsor should join in maintaining and expanding the local community garden development.

#### VIII. GARDEN LEADERS MUST KEEP ON

Too much can hardly be said in praise of the many local volunteer garden leaders who have helped so wonderfully in making Victory gardens successful. We hope their numbers will be increased, in view of the continuing Victory garden need, and an expanded garden program in the future. They will be needed and their leadership should be strengthened, so that good direction may be given the garden program. They are needed to enroll gardeners, to find and assign ground for those who do not have home garden space, give out information on gardening and encourage the new gardeners, develop garden centers, find needed promotion and sponsorship, organize community shows and other activities, maintain interest, and develop a new interest in the broader garden program.

#### IX. BEAUTIFY THE HOME GROUNDS

Victory gardeners, rightfully so, are including the growing of some flowers in their home gardens. This broad interest, where space permits, should be encouraged that flowers as well as vegetables grace the family table. Coupled with this should be every encouragement for the beautification of home grounds, lawns, shrubs and trees that the home place be made as attractive as possible, by screening out unsightly vistas and objects, obtaining privacy and providing an outdoor living room for recreation. We are coming more and more to appreciate the outdoors. When the backyard is made to be an attractive adjunct to the house, we can more easily enjoy the sunshine, fresh air and cheering greenery which should be every family's right and pleasure.

#### X. BEAUTIFY AMERICA

Deeper than this is the need for stimulating a much greater national interest in the problem of civic and countryside improvement and beautification, that everyday living be made more beautiful and enriching. Local and State garden committees can well build on the great current interest and experience in gardening and develop appraisals of local situations and needs, then organize a post-war program of recommendations which public and private groups may accept and gradually carry out. Included in such appraisals and programs may be the need for parks, parkways and playgrounds, (2) The improvement of approaches to towns and cities to make them more sightly, (3) The improvement of housing conditions in industrial and low income areas, (4) Planning projected housing developments to provide maximum outdoor space, lawn, trees, greenery, recreation, (5) Obtaining the cooperation of property owners and real estate sub-dividers to so plan new residence areas that sufficient garden space will be provided for each residence lot and that the planning and layout of the streets and alleys will be such as to make for the most

harmonious and beautiful living surroundings. (6) Improving and beautifying water fronts and adjoining country and woods areas, (7) Landscaping of school grounds, public buildings, churches and improving and better maintaining cemeteries, (8) Removing unsightly roadside stands and advertisements, (9) Encouraging nurserymen to recommend and provide some of the more desirable kinds of plants for foundation planting and the landscaping of home grounds.

MAKING AMERICA MORE BEAUTIFUL

By Richardson Wright  
Editor-in-Chief, House & Garden

Just a little under three years ago I had the privilege of addressing this group on the subject of amateur gardeners and the part they could play in the proposed Victory Garden movement.

At the time, we gardening men and women were not taken very seriously by the powers that be. Since we did not comprise a voting block or a pressure group, since we maintained no lobbyist to harrass congressmen and government officials, there seemed no advantage in treating us as other than good little children. Yes, it would be nice if we raised some vegetables--the right kinds, of course, packed-jammed with vitamins--but don't dig up the lawn. And please don't bother us too much here in Washington, for our main purposes are to stop farmers from eating out of cans and to see that school luncheons are extended to all sections of the country. Admirable purposes, these. I must confess, though, that some of us came away from that first conference with misgivings.

But we went back home and started in the good old American way of free enterprise--we started digging our own gardens and inducing others to plant theirs. The results you know. In those three years we have not alone accomplished a major war effort but we have built up a potential force that is available for future service. Of those millions of men and women who, in the past three years, gardened for the first time and who learned its healthful advantages and enjoyed its benefits and securities, I calculate that 25% will continue gardening as part of the more abundant life.

For the present, these new gardeners and the old alike are set no other immediate purpose than to continue producing food for themselves and families. So far their attention has been primarily down to earth. Today my assignment is to urge those people to look up--look up at the America that is theirs and see how it can be made more beautiful.

Among the ways proposed to accomplish this is to weld the amateur gardeners of this country into an over-all, nation-wide gardening organization. We Americans have a passion for forming societies. Let us get a notion in our heads and we rush to elect officers, adopt by-laws and send out dues cards. We have a marked respect for voting blocs.

By no means is this a new subject. It has many merits. I have argued it pro and con for thirty years. I have also watched closely the recent reactions in England where the Royal Horticultural Society, which extends its influence over the British Isles, has been subject to some rattling criticism. There is talk of having a Minister of Horticulture--of the government recognizing the value and necessity of ornamental gardening both as a benefit for all people and as a force for national beautification.

The day may come when, here in Washington, ornamental gardeners and the trades serving them will find leadership in some well organized and active branch of the Department of Agriculture.

Meantime, we amateurs already have our great horticultural societies, long established, our flourishing Federated Garden Clubs, Garden Club of America,

Men's Garden Club, special plant societies and various civic associations, most of which are nation-wide in membership and often in influence.

These organizations have long since done more than launch a beach-head against established national ugliness; they're already deep inside the enemy's lines.

At the moment, I am not concerned with the type of machinery whereby their efforts can be coordinated. These amateurs are already initiated into the sociological purposes of gardening. What concerns me is how we can initiate all the rest--those who don't belong to clubs and that 25% residue of Victory Gardeners who will be joining our ranks. How can we approach them? How can we make them understand that a necessary part of the equipment of a good gardener is a social conscience? How can we convince them that they must fight against encroaching ugliness with the same ardor that all decent citizens fight against encroachment on their liberties?

What we need first is to adopt a common basis which will appeal to all sorts and conditions of men.

When we talk of making America more beautiful, we acknowledge that there is a vast amount of ugliness to be overcome. We acknowledge that God gave us a beautiful land and we mortals have made a mess of it. But the hitch in such an approach is that no two people agree on what is ugly. No two people see the mess we've made in the same way. Merely to approach this problem of making America more beautiful from the esthetic viewpoint is doomed to failure.

Let us, then, adopt the argument that ugliness is waste and waste is ugliness. Let us demonstrate that in both the short run and in the long, ugliness doesn't pay. Let us prove that ugliness and the waste of natural beauty and resources roll up staggering bills against ourselves and future generations.

In what easily recognizable ways is this national debt of ugliness being piled up? In four ways: (1) in the waste of our land, (2) in the waste of our forests, (3) in the waste of our roadsides, (4) in the waste of local property values.

(1) For some time now the waste of erosion and its inevitable consequence of national food shortages has been recognized by even the humblest gardener. We go around our little plots and our well-acred estates and see where it can be checked. Erosion has become a recognized national sin. It is anti-social.

We must also convince people that land kept in good health, in good productive condition, pays incalculable dividends. When we put back into the soil what we have taken from it in crops, then we are maintaining not only the productive value of the land but its beauty also. Not a gardener among us but feels the beauty of land in good health and tilth. It is the first mark of the real gardener that he can see and delight in this beauty.

(2) The waste of our forests is recognized in a vague way, but that recognition will not become acute until building starts again, when John Doe and his wife find out the staggering cost of lumber. The war, forest fires and ruthless cutting have brought the lumber situation to a national crisis. To cut over a wood lot without attempting re-forestation is, in my opinion, equal to flinging

back in God's face the bounty He has given us. It is also robbing the next generation.

Already some of our garden clubs are working to save forest areas of great beauty from destruction--the redwoods of California, for example. Might I suggest that they undertake, as a study, the methods of growing and cropping timber? Instead of making pretty little pilgrimages to interesting gardens, why not go out occasionally with a state or national forester and study the growing wood situations in their own neighborhoods?

(3) To prevent waste of our roadsides we must insist on proper planting, care of existing natural beauty--and a continuing fight against the menace of billboards.

In New Jersey, the recent work of the Garden Club, planting a section of highway as a war memorial, serves also as a demonstration of what can be done if we only recognize that ugliness is waste. This ten-mile stretch, kept in good growing condition and uncluttered with billboards, will be an investment in national beauty. The Meritt Parkway in Connecticut and the Hutchinson River Parkway in New York, both well planted, both maintaining existing features, both devoid of billboards, are evidence, constantly increasing evidence to all who pass, that beauty pays. If you doubt this, motor down Lincoln Highway No. 1 from New York to Philadelphia. Its ugliness is enough to make Old Abe churn in his grave.

As for billboards, there's scarcely one of us here but has helped fight their wastefulness of countryside beauty. Time and again our efforts have been frustrated by their influence in state legislatures. We know all the arguments of their defense. With the dewy-eyed innocence of the pure in heart, they now plead that billboards are part of the American way of life and that thousands make their living through them. Well, so are slums part of the American way of life--a lamentable, disgraceful part--and thousands make a living from them. Slums are the social disease of our cities, billboards the social disease of our countryside.

When will local tradesmen and great industrialists alike halt the spread of this disease? When will they stop wasting the beauty of our countryside? When will they give it back undefiled to the American people?

(4) The fourth method of ugly waste is the waste of local property values. Here is a matter that appeals immediately to the pocketbook of the average citizen. It speaks a language he can understand. A home properly landscaped, well kept up, not alone gains additional re-sale value ranging all the way from 25% to 100%, but it also makes the owner a recognized influence in his community.

Human nature is so constituted that we follow leaders. We silly sheep--even though we boast our rugged individualism--we silly sheep still go tagging after the bell-wether. Develop your bell-wethers in every block and neighborhood of every town and city, and the warfare against the waste of property values will be destined to win. John Jones' influence extends to Bill Smith, who lives to the right of him and to Pete Brown, who lives to the left. Before you know it, the whole block, the whole neighborhood, is imitating, following them.

Once these average citizens see that home beauty pays, they will be ready to accept the fact that unkempt village greens and parks, ugly unscreened dumps, miasmic approaches to their towns and cities, treeless streets and polluted streams are problems that the electorate cannot shirk. They all hurt property values and waste natural resources.

The local leader in the fight against waste and ugliness will naturally find satisfaction in being a good citizen, but--and here's the hitch--he soon discovers that for such leadership he must pay a price. Let a man improve his property, and forthwith the local tax assessor jacks up his valuation. Let another man neglect his place, allow his fields to waste and become unproductive and he, as the saying is, is "sitting pretty."

One of these days we may have the brains and courage to change our standards of judging real estate values. One of these days the man who wastes with ugliness may be penalized with higher taxes and the man who saves with beauty will find recompense in lower taxation.

Congress shortly will be considering the extension of social security to all working citizens. When you and I reach the age of retirement, we will receive the money that has been saved from our wages. To what extent that security will actually be secure depends on what our money will then buy and what there is to buy.

I propose that, to be certain of future security, we must work now and save now to assure ourselves and future generations the security of our national and local resources--the security of the land, the security of our forests and streams, the security of our roads and highways, the security of local properties. Save these, and we shall never know want of body and spirit. Save these, and America will remain beautiful.



## GARDENING IN AN ARMY HOSPITAL

Mrs. Stephen G. Van Hoesen

I can't tell you how much I have enjoyed all of the talks that have preceded me. I notice that I am last on the program this morning, and may I say that I will try to be your cocktail for luncheon.

The subject assigned to me and one that my heart is in wholly, "Gardening in an Army Hospital" does not necessarily mean an army hospital. It can be a Navy hospital as well. I am not going into the details of how I started with this but I am going to say that it was through the invitation of an army surgeon to the head of the Garden Club of New Jersey. Gardening therapy was started at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. I was selected as the one to try the experiment, and I can assure you that the first week at this army hospital was an experiment. I suffered, as I imagine many of the personnel at the hospital did, as it was an unknown and untried thing as far as we were attempting to do it. Each man was sent into the garden dressed only in his pajamas and bathrobe, and I was given cards indicating to me what the trouble was, whether it was mental, a little bit on the border line, or an operation or an injury. Fortunately for me, I am an old nurse and I was able to bring back some of my work, or the experience I had in my work in previous years. I have been told that I was too old to go into this, or too old to go into that, but I wasn't too old to stand out in the warm sun of 115 degrees, and I enjoyed it. I was told this morning that I should tell the ladies (and I think that from the observation I had this morning, some of them noticed it)--I lost 32 pounds this summer. I am telling you that in the beginning because I'm afraid I might forget it.

I don't know just how to start to give you the picture as it was presented to my committee and myself. Here were these men that were sent out to us in the garden in ill-fitting pajamas. Now this is no reflection on anyone. To my mind, a 6-foot man had on a bathrobe that I thought would be right for a man five-foot-five, maroon color. I found out afterwards just why that color had been selected. They were naturally timid. They didn't know what they were out there for. It was all new to them, just as it was new to us. They hesitated to talk. They looked at us and thought we were a bunch of women to torment them. After we got inside the shell they threw about themselves, we could find the right subject, the something that was in their hearts that they wanted to talk about. Then we could do something about it. After working a while they would take their bathrobes off and hang them on a beanpole. They hesitated but after a while it seemed all right. It got warmer and warmer. The warmer it got the better I liked it because then off would come the pajama top. They would get the benefit of sunshine immediately. Some, perhaps, had never been out in that kind of sunshine where they did not have to talk just as they were supposed to talk. I gave them a few rules: cuss a little, all right; sing, all right; want to talk about your family, OK. If you can't help talking about the war, come in a corner and we'll talk about it together. Finding the thing nearest their hearts helped my committee and me decide what to do. I'm not going to try and tell you what I think should be done in the future. Some cases that came under my observation may be of interest to you.

One case, a man never had seen vegetables grown--had no idea of how they grew. He had seen them in the market, on tables, but he did not know exactly how vegetables grew. One day he came to me and said, "I am so thrilled! Have you seen the blossom on the egg plant? You know, I have a confession to make. I picked one." I told him that was all right. After all, gardens are not so much for production of vegetables as for the help we can give men through experience, exercise, and sunshine. He went on and said, "There's something else I have done. You know I just saw there was a little egg plant coming out of the blossom and I picked that too." I told him that was all right too and to go get one of the bigger ones. I found out later that he was a frustrated artist. He had taken the blossom and the small and larger egg plants and made a still-life picture. That is just one example of permitting them to do as they want.

The gardens are 150 x 150 feet. There are two, one planted in corn--early and late corn-- and one in beans. One garden is for experiment prescription.

One fellow came to me and said he joined the army to fight Japs and not to hoe corn. "All right," I told him, "there are plenty of Japs to kill in the corn field." There were Japanese beetles, and he cleaned them all out--destroyed them and he had never seen one before. He asked whether they would come back next year and how often they visited. I told him they didn't make advance reservations.

I am going to tell you something now that may pull at your heart-strings, but at the end I am sure you will realize what it did accomplish and you will forgive me. This particular morning one man came out in the garden and held his hands up to me. "I can't do anything," he told me. "You can't do anything!" I said to him. He told me to look at his hands, and I could see that his hands had been crushed, every bone cracked. He told me he would like to do something. I told him there was nothing wrong with his "squatter" and that I had a job for him--counting radishes. He looked all around and said he didn't see any radishes. I could hardly believe my ears that this grand looking boy, (and that is the sad part of it--they are all so young) did not know how radishes grew. We went to the experiment garden and I got down on my haunches and showed him what they looked like. When I had pulled 25 or 30, he asked if I thought he could do that. "No reason why you can't try," I told him. He was very much interested and took hold of the top of a radish with one finger. He was afraid he would be hurt. These boys have been hurt so much! Then he took it in his fingers. After he found out that he could do it, he sat down and cried. I paid no attention to him. He asked me if I didn't think he was a "sissy." "No," I told him, "that is the best thing you can do. That is your safety valve. You feel better after crying and you aren't hurt on the inside." He wanted to know if I wasn't curious as to why he was crying. I told him no, but if he wanted to talk about it I would be glad to listen. He said he was a violinist and thought he would never be able to use his fingers again, and I said, "Thank God for the little radish!"

One morning a colored fellow came out and told me he couldn't work because he had two broken ankles. "Man, you don't want to work!" I told him. He said he couldn't walk on loose soil. I told him I had a sit-down job for him. I had him sit on a box and gave him a hatchet and told him to point the bean poles for the lima beans. He went on saying he couldn't work, and I told him he didn't want to work. "What do you want to do?" I asked him. I found out that he wanted to talk, and he said about women, so I told him that was right up my alley. I asked him if he was married, and he said no; no sweetheart,--Yes! "Any sisters?" I asked, and he had five. "Got any brothers?" "No." "Mother living?" "Yes." And when I said that, I knew I had pressed the right button, and for fifteen minutes I listened to what Mother cooked. He stopped right in the middle of a word, "You are spanking me, I'm awfully sorry!" He turned out to be one of the best men in the garden in spite of his ankles, was willing to do anything, and his physical condition improved very much.

Men come into the garden often and look at the various vegetables that are coming to maturity. I decided to take a salt and pepper cellar out to the garden. It was interesting to watch the tomatoes get ripe. For a long time we wondered what was happening to them. Men would leave the barracks to get ripe tomatoes---so that was my reason for taking the salt and pepper out into the garden. They would pick the tomatoes, use the salt and pepper, and enjoy them--peppers and radishes too, and it was almost like an afternoon tea. Sometimes when I would see men pulling various vegetables I would think it did them a lot of good. We would have to be very careful -- with men who had ulcers.

Many times in the garden a gardener was made. I have in mind two examples, two cases especially of men that had lived in the city all of their lives -- never been in the country. Their ambition after the war was to get a piece of land so that they could grow things.

We made every effort to get the men to talk about the things that interested them most. First of all, there was the family gallery they would bring out of their wallets and show us pictures--Mother, Father, sweethearts, wives. The more we saw, the closer we could get to them. I wore slacks and carried 8 or 10 wallets. Gradually they would talk about other things. We weren't interested in their names but in where they came from. We would try to find out points of interest we could talk about to them.

One of the most interesting cases Colonel Tousey mentioned in an article for the Herald Tribune. A man, 6-foot-4, weighing 270, came into the hospital with three dislocated vertebrae. He was on a board for six weeks or more. The fourth day that he was out of bed he was sent out into the garden. He was a sad sight. He couldn't straighten up. I tried with the aid of bean poles to assist him in standing. He was willing to try. I told him I would take one arm and he should use the bean pole and walk from one bean pole to the next, and we did that for 150 feet. He was standing fairly straight at the end, but when he thought I wasn't looking he bent again. I noticed out of the corner of my eye and told him he wasn't fooling me, and I told him to try it again. We rested and a while

later tried it again--the full 150 feet. Four weeks from that time, he was captain of a softball team. The work he did in the garden gave him confidence he could do it and he wouldn't be hurt. They have a fear of being hurt. They are hurt so much and in so many ways. He was a very wonderful specimen of humanity at the end of the time and very happy that he could be captain of the team. When he got on the team he ignored us completely.

I think perhaps you might be interested in knowing what we produced in these two gardens. We found that men with paralyzed hands or arms, through accidents or other causes, in the picking of beans were able to use their fingers. These men would persist in picking beans because they said it helped their fingers.

We produced 10 bushels of tomatoes, 7 bushels of green beans, 1172 large peppers and 1/2 bushel of small peppers, 129 egg plants, and these were taken to the mess sergeant and used in the reconstruction area. We had 557 ears of corn with no borers. Dr. Connor asked why no borers. I told them the ground had never been used to grow corn before, and it is surprising how true that was. We had four bushels of lima beans. Many times the bean blossoms as well as the beans would be destroyed because the men we were working with used beans as a means of exercising their hands. There were 2500 radishes, and if we destroyed every radish, the fact that that one boy had confidence in himself to play his violin again would be worth the cost of all of those radishes.

I am also interested in what the boys wanted to plant next year: tomatoes, radishes, lima beans, egg plant, peppers, and something we never thought of--peanuts; also cabbage, lettuce, swiss chard--no spinach.

Yesterday, before leaving New York, I received a little note from one of the boys, and he said he had a "heck of a time" finding where I was but he wanted me to have the enclosed clipping, for it was the way he felt now.

## THE NEED FOR MORE HOME FRUIT PLANTING

J. H. Gourley  
Chairman, Department of Horticulture  
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Anyone who has driven about rural America must have been impressed with "the decline and fall" of the farm and home orchard. What was once as much a part of a rural home setting as a straw stack, is now passing out. Usually, we classify orchards as: commercial, farm, or home orchards, depending on their size or the emphasis which is placed on them.

Let us look briefly at the trend in fruit tree population in the United States. Only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  percent of all farms are fruit farms, according to government figures but these produce five-sixths of all fruit. That there has been a decided reduction in acreage is shown by the fact that in 1930 there were something over six million acres in all fruits and in 1940 something over five million acres, or a reduction of 17 percent. It had already been shown that orchards of less than 100 trees produced 1.8 bushels per tree while those of 1,000 trees or more produced 3.6 bushels per tree. While statistical information is not available to me, one would judge that most of the tree loss in recent years has been from the farm orchard which had been inflicted.

Farm orchards flourished a generation or two ago when there were no furnaces in the cellars and they made excellent storage for fruit; when insect and diseases had not become serious; when spraying was practically unheard of on the farm. Much sentiment has been expressed about the old apple tree standing above the spring-house or in the sheep pasture; but such trees belong in poetry and not in the home orchard. In fact, I would recommend the elimination of many more farm orchards and old trees and start anew with young trees. They would be smaller, easier to care for and add zest to the enterprise, because they are young. Since spraying is necessary in most sections, the old, mammoth tree must go, along with the half dead snags that pass for fruit trees. We need a renaissance in the home orchard and the passing of the large farm orchard which receives no care.

### Food Habits

Along with other food habits, it is striking to note the trend in the consumption of fruit. In 1900, we consumed about 150 pounds per capita of all fruits per year. Recently this figure has risen to about 180 pounds. In 1900, we consumed 100 pounds of apples but by 1937, this had fallen to 65 pounds while grapefruit had risen from 2 pounds per capita to 10 pounds, or 500 percent increase, and oranges from 8 to 16 pounds or 200 percent increase.

Obviously, farm people do not eat as much fruit as they would if they grew an abundant supply themselves. Often they say that they buy it, but some inquiries show much to be desired. This is the reason why there is need for more fruit planting. I think we do not need to prove the value of fruits on a vitamin or mineral basis, although they measure up pretty well here, but the best medical authorities place a high value on the variety which fruit gives in the diet, on the pectic content, and on its protective usefulness.

But it would seem that the greatest argument is the pleasure it gives to young and old alike and not because "it is good for one." I don't like to eat things just because they are good for me.

#### Some Difficulties

One of the greatest difficulties in again inducing people to plant trees is psychological. Spraying has become a formidable operation to them, equipment is expensive and bothersome and the easy way out is to forget it. Now here the manufacturers of spray equipment are missing a big opportunity. Simple, inexpensive and effective equipment which is adequate for the smaller trees is greatly needed and will no doubt be met. The hand duster or sprayer mounted on wheels is in the picture for the future.

The very fact that spraying is often necessary is an obstacle. True fruit of reasonably good quality may be grown in some sections without any spraying, as mentioned by Governor Cooper, and this must not be overlooked. We do not need as perfect fruit for home consumption as for the channels of commerce for minor blemishes can easily be removed.

Another difficulty is the fact that some fruit tree operations come at the time when a farmer must be in the fields with his crops and he comes to minimize the value of his fruit plantation. This is, too, partly psychological.

#### Some Suggestions

In this program of getting some fruit on every farm, we must not overlook the tremendous force of the Amateur Spirit, the desire for an escape from a "loud-speaker age". Within the heart of most people is an interest in Nature, a love of the beautiful. To pick one's own strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, and tree fruits is a thrill and fills the owner with pride. I like the thought of Mr. Whiting of the Springfield Republican that an apple flower never fades, the white petals flutter to the ground and the blossom goes ahead and forms an apple with its ultimate destiny in a good apple pie.

Now all this needs a well conducted educational campaign. In this printed campaign, the journalist has a great opportunity and it is important that writing in horticulture be accurate and not just good literature.

Much has been said and written about dwarf trees. A satisfactory dwarf is needed but these trees are not available in quantity at present. Much progress has been made and we are probably on our way. In the meantime, it is quite practical to want a few standard trees and graft them to several varieties so that a family supply of apples is available practically all year through.

Custom spraying needs encouragement. One man (who likes the job) can care for a large number of small plantings and solve the spraying problem. One man in my neighborhood sprays as many as sixty such plantings a year. He also prunes many of them. And he has only one arm!

The coming of freezer locker plants, and soon such units in one's own home, solves much of the processing problem. Cherries, raspberries, strawberries, peaches and many others can be quickly and easily preserved in their fresh state.

May I mention the possibility of Asiatic chestnuts which are blight resistant. They come into bearing in seven years from seed and add another interesting item to the home fruit plantation. (A package of them was here shown and presented to Governor Cooper.)

Neither need we neglect bees on the home place. A friend produces 18 gallons of strained honey a year from his colonies placed among the shrubbery. Here a man, or woman, has an outlet for this amateur spirit and as a compensation, he can produce much of his fruit supply. Some well directed force behind this movement will put it across.

## A PROGRAM FOR INDUSTRIAL VICTORY GARDENS

Lester J. Norris

I have been listed as Illinois Food Director, which actually means Victory Garden Chairman of Illinois. Now I would love to talk about Illinois, where a war garden program was organized seven months prior to Pearl Harbor, but my experiences in Illinois do not fit the assignment which has been given to me. I can best fulfill that assignment by giving you my experiences as Chairman of the Board of the National Victory Garden Institute, which functions almost entirely through Industry.

I believe the best way to approach my subject, "A Program for Industrial Victory Gardens," is to give you a bit of the history of the Institute's program with Industry, and to quote from my address to the industrial representatives at our recent conference in New York City. You will then understand the Institute's policy with Industry and you will understand what Industry is thinking in regard to the program.

In speaking of a future program for Industry we must keep in mind the fact that the whole Victory Garden movement is a voluntary program, and one of the greatest of the war. And the interest which Industry has taken in the Victory Garden program is one of the highlights of the war.

Industry's interest was due first, to the possible shortage of food; and second, to the other benefits such as healthful recreation, better nutrition, and the holding down of living costs, which the program offers its employees.

The garden movement has brought Industry, Labor, and Agriculture together on a common ground of understanding.

We believe that Industry will take an increasing interest in encouraging better nutrition for its employees. Already the Institute has had reports that nutritionists are being employed by some companies to conduct classes in better balanced diets for the wives of the employees.

We in the Institute believe that diet is the third leg of the stool in this program and that Industry is in a position to put emphasis on this phase and reach the housewives through more intensive promotion of better nutrition.

There are still millions of people whose diets are governed by habit and whose diets do not include the proper balance of foods, in spite of the many articles on the subject which are constantly appearing in magazines and newspapers. Industry could do a job in this field that would be comparable to the Victory Garden program of this war, and a healthier America would be the result.

I would like to digress a little here to touch on some of the activities of the National Victory Garden Institute in connection with the industrial program.



Many of you are familiar with the awarding of plaques to industrial concerns, who do an outstanding job in the company-employee program, which was inaugurated last year; and the Green Thumb Contest which the Institute sponsored nationally this year.

The first judging of company activities for the plaque awards this year was done a week ago, and announcements of the companies who have merited the award for 1944 will be made in the near future. A second judging will take place in January.

The State Green Thumb winners have been selected in eleven states and the judging of these winners for the national prizes will take place next month.

This contest was open to anyone and participants are classified in three divisions: adults, children of elementary school age, and children of high school age. The grand award for adults is a \$1,000 War Bond, and for each of the children's divisions a \$500 War Bond.

The Institute has sponsored numerous regional conferences from San Francisco to New York and has provided literature and personal contacts, as a part of its service to industry. It has done many things outside of these activities for the benefit of the whole program.

This brief summary of the Institute's activities will give you an idea of the background for the industrial program and, as I said before, I believe you will better understand the 1945 industrial program if I quote from my remarks at our recent New York conference. I quote:

"We are all looking forward first to one thing - Victory! And until that is an accomplished fact, I cannot become concerned about surpluses; especially in food during a war period.

Many people today in horticulture are asking 'What' after the Victory Gardens?

Being a business man - and not a crystal gazer - I can only approach this subject on the factual information which is available, and by looking at the record of the Victory Garden movement, and then attempting to do some projecting which, necessarily, must be qualified with a lot of 'ifs'.

First - Industry through all of its wonderful facilities of promotion, in cooperation with the Administration saved the Victory Garden program in 1944. We estimate that Industry was responsible for at least 2,000,000 gardens this year. It is anyone's guess as to how many more became interested this year as a result of the radio, newspaper, and company-employee garden promotions by Industry. 1944 was a successful year.

What about 1945? Points have been removed on canned vegetables. Does that mean that we should drop the food angle of this great voluntary

program for next year and convert to horticultural lines? I do not think so at this time.

Well, let's be factual. Is there any doubt that our timetable in Europe, at least as civilians have had some cause for believing, is a bit off schedule? In September, while I was in Washington, it was my pleasure to interview a gentleman whose letters to businessmen have become famous. He stated then that the betting in his office was even money that Germany would collapse by October 15, and two to one that this would be accomplished by October 31st. That date has now passed, and collapse has not yet occurred. Now then, if we have predicted our food surpluses on the assumption that the war in Europe would be over this fall, how does that affect the food situation in the event that it is not?

What does the Army have to say? I shall take the liberty of quoting from an article in the October 14 issue of the Saturday Evening Post, by Major General E. F. Gregory, the Quartermaster General, titled, "The Army Is Not Hoarding Food." Two or three short quotations will give the thought of the article.

First, and I quote, "What is the Army going to do with its tremendous hoards of food when the war is over? The answer is simple: There won't be any tremendous hoards of food."

Second, "Although the collapse of Germany will reduce the long-term Army food requirements in Europe, there will be no immediate complete demobilization of the Army. The war with Japan is not over. Although our buying may be curtailed, there will be no Army stocks available for public distribution."

And in conclusion General Gregory says, "I can sincerely say that the Army is doing everything in its power to regulate its procurement and stocks so that the transition from a war to a peace basis will be made with least possible disruption to the national economy. But there must be no let-down in the production of food, and no great expectations of an immediate civilian feast from Army stores."

In the face of this statement, I do not see how we can afford to pull the strings at this time on the Victory Garden program.

But let us move on to the possibilities of carrying on a gardening program in industry regardless of the necessity for food.

Let us consider the possibilities of personnel relationships; the benefits that occur in health and better living as a result of being next to the soil. I know of no better way to consider this phase than to quote from letters which I have received from top industrialists whom I polled for their opinions of gardening during the reconversion and post-war period.

Some hundred or more key industrialists were asked their opinions. Following are some of the questions I asked them in a letter I wrote dated September 6:

"Do you think the home garden program will be important in the reconversion and early post-war period?"

"Does the garden movement contribute to good employer-employee relationships?"

"Regardless of whether or not there will be an emergency food problem by the spring of 1945, should the National Garden Institute continue to serve the approximately 40,000,000 individuals who have gardened during 1943 and 1944?"

"Do you think that the Institute, which functions independently of government agencies, can be useful to industrial workers and to youth, in supplying information, sponsoring contests, and otherwise stimulating the art of home gardening?"

"We know that the home garden movement has gotten people back to the soil; has created a better understanding between Agriculture and Industry; has helped to keep America healthy and has been conducive to better citizenship. But we would like to know what you, as an industrialist, think; and particularly to have your opinion as to whether there is a sound, practical basis for the continuance of the Institute."

Now keep in mind as I give you the results of this poll, that my letter was dated September 6, and on September 7 all points were removed on all canned vegetables except tomato juice.

Of the industrialists who expressed an opinion on the question, 60.7% were positive as to the value of the program and the continuance of the Institute in its guidance; 17.5% were negative; and 21.5% qualified their answers because of the uncertainty of the war and the food situation.

(Incidentally, answers have come in since this tabulation was made which have raised the positive percentage.)

I will take the liberty of quoting from a few of the letters selected for diversification. I hope these quotations will not bore you. I quote them to show what leaders in Industry are thinking, and please keep in mind the industrialists had probably never discussed this problem and some were thousands of miles apart.

1) A public utility president: "It is my own belief that a great movement will be the outcome of the National Victory Garden activity in promoting in this country the idea of having a home and a bit of land. This is the dream of every young worker and will be the goal of every mother and father of children."

2) Chairman of the Board of an oil company: "We have discovered that our company officials and the employees have become more appreciative and interested in each other, tending to cement more good will and a sense of comradeship through home and garden projects. Yes, our experience of eighteen years has proven that we like each other as well as

enjoy our gardening. It gives healthful exercise and contributes to the family table. We strongly recommend gardening to others."

3) Vice president and sales manager of a brewing company: "If the home garden is to have a worthwhile place generally in the lives of men and women everywhere after the war, I would expect that it would be necessary that they have leadership, direction, source of information, and inspiration. It naturally follows then that the National Victory Garden Institute (in post-war known as the National Garden Institute) would be justified in continuing.

4) President of a national rubber company: "In my opinion, a considerable number of people who have participated in victory gardening during the emergency will wish to continue the activity as a healthful and interesting hobby in the years to come. It seems to me that some constructive program could be sponsored on a national basis through the schools and industries to encourage continuation of home gardening."

5) President of a utility company: "I am sorry I haven't seen you lately, for one of the things I have been wanting to tell you is that the victory garden is one of the best things to come out of the war period. One cannot often speak with personal knowledge on national questions, but this is a case where I am one of the beneficiaries of your work. For two years I have been immersed in gardening activity - something I had never done in my life - and I have got lots of fun and lots of good out of it. The same is true of my wife."

6) Chairman of another great utility company: "In my opinion this has been one of the most remarkable, well-handled and successful efforts of the war period. It seems to me that it has interested more and more people in doing something for their own support in the way of gardening. I know that it has contributed to fine employer and employee relations. It was only yesterday that I had the pleasure of inspecting the fine exhibit of our company, of flowers and vegetables raised by our own employees."

7) President of a motor company: "We do believe the home garden program will be important in the reversion and post-war period, because if the war in Europe is over this year, industry will undoubtedly go back to a forty-hour week. These people could utilize their spare time in the garden, which would serve to provide them with a hobby and at the same time grow food and flowers for their own use and enjoyment."

Digressing from the New York conference a moment; just before leaving home for this conference the president of a national corporation told me that gardening is now a routine matter with his company's personnel department. His company initiated the program because of the Institute's promotion a year ago. Knowing that I was to make an address here today, he said I had his permission to quote the following:

"This year more than 50% (over 11,000) of our company's employees cultivated Victory Gardens. While we have no accurate way of measuring

the benefits, industrially, of our Victory Garden program, we are certain that those who participated in the effort have benefited considerably.

"By having gardens, hundreds of our employees enjoyed for the first time the thrill of eating something they themselves produced - good, fresh, wholesome vegetables. There is great satisfaction in that, and there can be no doubt that the healthful, outdoor work has been extremely beneficial.

"We have also heard that gardening has helped to restore a feeling of neighborliness among people, particularly in the larger cities. In our fast-moving world, people seldom have time to become well acquainted, but by having a common interest, such as gardening, we find that many friendships develop.

"As to benefits to the company, we feel that the wholesome outdoor exercise, plus the better, fresher food which was raised, have contributed to better health among our employees. This, therefore, should have its effect on reducing absenteeism.

"We feel that we have good relations with our employees. We also know that there is always room for improvement. When executives and supervisors meet with employees on a common project, such as Victory Gardens, there is bound to be a better understanding and a better spirit of friendliness among them. Therefore, we recognize the Victory Garden program as an excellent channel of contact between management and employees, and one which we believe should be fostered for the good of both."

Concluding my remarks at the New York conference, I said:

"Looking forward to the immediate future, the war will continue to govern the gardening program in regard to food. In the early post-war period, reconversion problems may be a governing factor in gardening for economic reasons.

"Beyond the immediate post-war period the benefits of the Victory Garden program during the war are sure to be felt in a desire for improved landscaping, flower gardens, and better lawns at home - and here is where Industry can be helpful to its employees by encouraging conversion from emphasis on storage vegetables to the green perishable vegetables, a few rose bushes, a few evergreens, and perhaps a fruit tree.

"The Institute hopes to aid Industry with simple suggestions for the industrial worker's home. We hope to encourage better planning of small housing projects so that the layout of the houses in relation to the grounds will leave available ground for a small home garden and some lawn.

"We hope to coordinate and act as a clearing house for horticulture groups who wish to cooperate.

"We hope to encourage all groups interested in the soil and conservation of our natural resources, and the improvement of America,

through gardening in all its phases.

"We believe that these objectives are of interest to Industry and perhaps somewhat Industry's responsibility in a cooperative manner.

"As I said in my opening remarks, the projections which I have just made in 'Looking Forward' are qualified by many 'ifs'. These 'ifs' will be determined by what Industry, the Administration, and others wish to have come out of this great voluntary movement involving forty to fifty million people. But as it now stands, if the Army still wants all out food production, the army of Victory Gardeners will deliver!"

That concluded my remarks at the New York conference.

Major Bryan of the Quartermaster Corps, who addressed us during the luncheon, said in part:

"If the Army's food stocks could be transferred overnight to American pantry shelves, there wouldn't be enough to last the civilian population of the nation a single week."

"Talk of quick victory and surpluses of war materials have created a 'bogey man' in the form of an impression that the Army is buying and 'hoarding' vast stocks of food for which it has no need, leading to apprehension as to the effect of 'dumping' such stocks on the market.

"If by some miracle the war should end today we would have about 1,100,000,000 pounds of food at overseas bases and another 1,500,000,000 pounds stored in the United States - a total of about 2,600,000,000 pounds. This figure does not include amounts constantly in transit, since such stocks are necessarily variable."

"Presuming that troop withdrawal could begin immediately with the war's end and that the Army could be withdrawn and demobilized within six months, the Army would have at any given time just about enough food to do the job. Your guess is as good as mine whether such a demobilization feat is possible, but there can be no doubt that whatever happens, the stock of military food on hand at any time will have been consumed by the time the armed forces are reduced to necessary peacetime strength."

"These facts should lay the bogey of Army food surpluses. Above all things let us hope the enormous forecast of surpluses will not cause a let-down in the production of food."

(End of quotations for Major Bryan's speech.)

During the course of the program of the New York conference, industrial and educational leaders from all sections of the country told of the beneficial results obtained from Victory Gardens in their

respective areas. It was most apparent that the large industries represented had done an excellent job in stimulating gardening and that institutionally they favored the continuance of a program that would act in 1945 and succeeding years to keep their people interested in gardening.

The speakers were unanimous in testifying to the benefits to the health of their employees, to their improved physical and mental condition, to the closer understanding it brought between management and labor, and to the actual improvement in family relations in addition to the new interest that had been awakened in each individual gardener through seeing things grow and benefiting personally from the produce of the gardens.

Now, in order to tell you intelligently what the industrial garden program will be, will depend a great deal upon the attitude of the Administration. May I say that I was greatly encouraged by what Mr. Marvin Jones and Mr. M. L. Wilson said here today.

Let us not discount the chances of a drought next year. Brazil is experiencing one now. Reports state that Brazil's drought is the worst in twenty years.

Industry, and I say this from personal experience, is all out for winning this war through production - and it doesn't matter whether it is production of food, arms, munitions, tanks, or planes. There is just one thing that counts and that is Victory!

We will have surpluses in arms, surpluses in munitions, surpluses in everything conceivable connected with the war effort that will help our boys to win the war.

There will be surpluses in these things and they will be considered as a part of the cost of war - because there will be no further use for them.

But what about food? Why all the concern about surpluses of food? We can't live without it, and if everyone is well fed - I say if because of the large population throughout the world which is still undernourished - the food can be junked, just as our liberty ships and other war materials will be junked, if it should affect our national economy seriously. However, I don't think we will ever junk our war-time produced food.

But Industry wants well fed employees and depends upon intelligent guidance for its garden program.

In conclusion, I would like to say that it is my conviction that Industry is going to encourage gardening in all its phases for some time. But Industry wants facts and it will work accordingly.

And as a representative of Industry, large and small, in the garden program, I urge the War Food Administration:

To advise the OWI to clarify and explain the position the country was in when Industry was told to eliminate the Victory Garden program from its advertising for 1945. The Institute has had many calls for advice from Industry for next year's program as a result of this policy. In addition to some industries' being confused, many individuals have construed this move as meaning that they should not have Victory Gardens next year. This was the result of broadcasts which carried the advertising policy to the public.

If that move was predicated on an early victory - now is the time to say so, because Industry starts working now budget-wise on what it does in the spring.

If you can tell me whether this will be done, I can tell you how intensive the industrial garden program will be in 1945.

If we need as many gardens next year, we had better say, "The goal is again 20 million gardens. I know from experience how quickly the steam goes off in the boiler. The Victory Garden engine will not run on luke-warm water and do a production job."

In view of the food shortages throughout the world, our boys on foreign soils, the lengthening of our military supply lines, possible crop disasters, and droughts, the National Victory Garden Institute during all the confusing reports about surpluses this year has consistently taken the position that the Victory Garden is essential for food and nutrition purposes - to say nothing of the prevention of inflation of food prices. And it will continue to urge Industry to promote company-employee gardens with food as the major consideration until Victory is an established fact.

The National Victory Garden Institute is a baby born of the war, and the war is not yet over. Its future depends upon whether there has been a new awakening to the soil - especially among industrial workers.

I think I have given you enough evidence so that you can judge for yourselves what the industrial program for 1945 will be.

Out of the whole movement I see a gardening America emerging to balance a technocracy which could wreck the morals and health of a nation - a technocracy developed to handle a 300 billion dollar debt. America must have balance, both physical and mental, and that balance to counteract industrial precision must come from Nature, whether it be obtained from gardening, fishing or hunting or other forms of recreation. Every movement which keeps America close to the soil, and which teaches men that it is life-giving soil upon which they walk, and not just dirt, should be encouraged.

I thank you.



NATIONAL VICTORY GARDEN CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON, D. C., NOVEMBER 28-29, 1944

REPORT OF COMMITTEE NO. 1. - A VICTORY GARDEN PROGRAM FOR 1945.

The groundwork for the 1945 Victory Garden Program has been steadily, surely, and soundly built during the period since Pearl Harbor. Excellent results in 1942 with remarkable improvements in 1943 and 1944 have assured America that Victory Gardens will do what is required for the duration.

Until the end of the war - and of the critical transition and post-war periods - food will continue to be a critical factor. All food that can be grown and consumed at home will help assure adequate supplies needed to maintain civilian health, efficiency and morale, after the vital requirements of the armed forces and other war needs are met. Home food production will also lessen difficulties of transportation, processing, storage, etc. And after the emergency period ends, home grown food will help to meet the nutritional needs of a peacetime world. Hence, notwithstanding occasional conflicting and contradictory reports, we are convinced that every possible assurance should be given that there shall be enough food at all times to meet all needs, even at the risk of occasional, temporary or local surpluses.

Recommendation I.

This Committee recommends that a national goal of 20 million better Victory Gardens again be set for 1945. We believe that this goal can be attained by placing special emphasis on the development of more community, industrial, and farm gardens. We believe that everyone who had a successful Victory Garden in 1944 should continue it in 1945.

Recommendation II.

We recommend that all Victory Garden organizations give more attention to the development of garden projects directed by the schools - gardens cultivated by the school children on school grounds, on community plots, and on home plots.

We also recommend that the subject of practical gardening be given greater importance in the country's educational system and that Boards of Education, school principals, and educators generally be urged to give increased attention to the fostering of greater junior interest in gardening through the employment and training of teachers competent in the field of gardening.

Recommendation III.

We recommend continued sustained attention to home preservation of food by all approved methods, and that all possible cooperation be given by Government agencies through continued efforts to provide adequate supplies of equipment

and materials necessary to the maximum cultivation of Victory Gardens and the maximum use and preservation of their products.

Recommendation IV.

We recommend that the accelerated trend toward the growing of ornamentals be recognized, and that home gardeners be encouraged to grow ornamentals, without neglecting food crops, so that everyone may enjoy a full and satisfying gardening experience.

Recommendation V.

Recalling the confusion caused in Victory Garden circles by conflicting reports and actions concerning supplies, rationing details, etc., we emphasize the vital necessity in the attainment of the 1945 Victory Garden goal of a uniform policy on the part of such Government agencies as OWI, WFA, OPA, WPB, and USDA.

E. L. D. Seymour, Chairman

COMMITTEE 1.

Mrs. E. Page Allinson  
B. J. Benson  
Floyd Bradley  
Mrs. J. H. Caldwell  
William R. Cole  
Harry Candy  
L. W. Corbett  
L. B. Dietrick  
Thelma A. Dreis  
M. P. Driggs  
Mrs. E. Wesley Frost  
Paul F. Frese  
J. Morton Franklin  
Edward I. Farrington  
W. H. Gaumnitz  
Albert Hoefer  
J. R. Hepler  
Edna K. Klinge  
Harry E. Myers  
Rudolph J. Mohr  
R. J. MacKinnon  
Lester J. Norris  
Elmo Ragsdale  
A. E. Schilletter  
Mrs. Oakley Sheldon  
Alex Sehlmeier  
Mrs. Edward C. Sweeney  
E. L. D. Seymour  
Mrs. Stephen G. Van Hoesen  
Chas. M. Winchester, Jr.  
James O. Young

NATIONAL VICTORY GARDEN CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON, D.C. NOVEMBER 28-29, 1944

REPORT OF COMMITTEE NO. 2 - A PROGRAM FOR MORE HOME FRUIT PLANTING

Your committee recognizes and wishes to emphasize the accepted fact that adequate nutrition cannot be met satisfactorily without the inclusion of a good supply of fruits. Fruits are important not only because they supply essential health protective elements but also because they furnish variety in the diet. In recognition of these facts it is recommended that a home planting of fruit be included in a well-balanced national program of food production in order to meet present and longtime needs.

1. Since many farm and suburban families will not have all the fruit they need unless they raise a large portion of it, this committee recommends that the home planting of various types of fruit which experience has shown can be grown with a minimum of attention be encouraged throughout the United States. The delights of home grown fruits were long appreciated in early days. They need to be more appreciated again especially as we now value their health-giving qualities so much more than formerly. Adequate supply of home-grown fruit for the family will serve not only to balance the Nation's diet but will help to provide better economic security and better living. It is recommended that every farm, town and suburban family with suitable ground space, wherever some kind of fruit can be grown, make plantings of the varieties of small fruits, grapes and tree fruits for home consumption which are recommended for the various regions by the Experiment Stations, Extension Services and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Home fruit planting is not to be confused with the old farm orchard. The committee is in agreement that both urban and rural families should plant the kinds of fruit best adapted to local conditions, primarily to provide as nearly as possible their home fruit requirements on both fresh and processed products. Variety recommendations should be those that can be grown with minimum amount of spraying and other cultural care.

2. The committee recommends, among methods and agencies for promoting greater success with home fruit plantings, the following:
  - a. Education through established organizations as garden and horticultural clubs, youth organizations such as 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers and Scouts, American Pomological Society and others.
  - b. Articles in the horticultural magazines and in other publications.
  - c. Greater use of small leaflets, each devoted to a limited phase of the home fruit planting, simple in language and well illustrated, devoted to limited problems of home fruit growing.
  - d. Increased use of press, radio and visual aid material prepared in the States and that prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.

e. Provision for the employment of special agents in larger urban areas for horticultural extension work.

13. In order that problems of home fruit production, which are in several respects different from those of commercial fruit production, may be solved, the committee recommends provision of larger research activities in this field in State and Federal Experiment Stations. It further recommends that in States in which home fruit production is of large importance because of the numbers of people affected, experiment station staff members be assigned on full time and adequate budgets to deal with this subject in cooperation with Extension workers of the respective States.

- T. J. Talbert, Chairman.

COMMITTEE 2.

W. R. Ballard  
Wm. G. Amstein  
George M. Darrow  
W. C. Pelton  
Chas. M. Drage  
Harry A. Graves  
Harry A. Gunning  
J. H. Gourley  
Chesley Hines  
Ray S. Marsh  
Monroe McCown  
Paul Stark  
Wilbur H. Thies  
T. J. Talbert

NATIONAL VICTORY GARDEN CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON, D. C., NOVEMBER 28-29, 1944

REPORT OF COMMITTEE NO. 3 - SUGGESTED PRESENT AND POST-WAR PROGRAMS IN  
URBAN HOME GROUNDS AND CIVIC IMPROVEMENT

This committee enthusiastically endorses Sections IX and X in the Victory Garden Program for 1945 and Suggestions for a Post-War Program, submitted by Mr. H. W. Hochbaum, which read as follows:

"IX. BEAUTIFY THE HOME GROUNDS

Victory gardeners, rightfully so, are including the growing of some flowers in their home gardens. This broad interest, where space permits, should be encouraged that flowers as well as vegetables grace the family table. Coupled with this should be every encouragement for the beautification of home grounds, lawns, shrubs and trees that the home place be made as attractive as possible, by screening out unsightly vistas and objects, obtaining privacy and providing an outdoor living room for recreation. We are coming more and more to appreciate the outdoors. When the backyard is made to be an attractive adjunct to the house, we can more easily enjoy the sunshine, fresh air and cheering greenery which should be every family's right and pleasure.

"X. BEAUTIFY AMERICA

Deeper than this is the need for stimulating a much greater national interest in the problem of civic and countryside improvement and beautification, that everyday living be made more beautiful and enriching. Local and State garden committees can well build on the great current interest and experience in gardening and develop appraisals of local situations and needs, then organize a post-war program of recommendations which public and private groups may accept and gradually carry out. Included in such appraisals and programs may be the need for parks, parkways and playgrounds, (2) The improvement of approaches to towns and cities to make them more sightly, (3) The improvement of housing conditions in industrial and low income areas, (4) Planning projected housing developments to provide maximum outdoor space, lawn, trees, greenery, recreation, (5) Obtaining the cooperation of property owners and real estate sub-dividers to so plan new residence areas that sufficient garden space will be provided for each residence lot and that the planning and layout of the streets and alleys will be such as to make for the most harmonious and beautiful living surroundings. (6) Improving and beautifying water fronts and adjoining country and woods areas, (7) Landscaping of school grounds, public buildings, churches and improving and better maintaining cemeteries, (8) Removing unsightly roadside stands and advertisements, (9) Encouraging nurserymen to recommend and provide some of the more desirable kinds of plants for foundation planting and the landscaping of home grounds."

And we submit the following recommendations:

1. That a division of ornamental horticulture be set up in the Bureau of Plant Industry.
2. That sufficient personnel be furnished the division of ornamental horticulture to handle the Extension phases.
3. That one or more specialists in ornamental horticulture be employed in each State.
4. That horticulture extension agents be employed in urban areas.
5. That the conference set up a committee to formulate a program for including gardening in the science section of the public school curriculum, the committee to consist of horticulturists, and representatives of the Office of Education.
6. That all possible encouragement be given to the development of horticultural programs for 4-H Clubs and older youth organizations in both urban and rural areas.
7. That committees be set up in each State to develop, maintain, and publicize suitable lists of horticultural plants for specific uses, and that the appropriate department in the State Colleges of Agriculture or Experiment Stations be assigned the responsibility of organizing these committees.

Paul R. Krone, Chairman

COMMITTEE 3.

R. C. Allen  
George E. Burkhardt  
Mrs. Chase Donaldson  
S. L. Emsweller  
C. T. Furrer  
Mrs. Henry G. Guthrie, Jr.  
Fred C. Heuchling  
Paul R. Krone  
A. C. Morgan  
Ruth Mosher Place  
Robert H. Roland  
Victor H. Ries  
Carl P. Witte  
Mrs. F. B. Woodroffe  
Richardson Wright  
Wilbur H. Youngman  
Howard Zahniser

NATIONAL VICTORY GARDEN CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON, D. C., NOVEMBER 28-29, 1944

REPORT OF COMMITTEE NO. 4 - SUGGESTED PRESENT AND POST-WAR RURAL HOME  
GROUNDS AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

The Committee met to consider the subject and made the following recommendations:

1. That rural home ground and community beautification play an equally important part with food production in the National Victory Garden Program.
2. Whereas, ornamental gardening has great possibilities of occupational therapy for members of the armed forces, we recommend that this form of garden therapy be developed and used to the fullest extent and that agricultural colleges be urged to set up suitable courses to that end.
3. That the State extension services be further encouraged to expand their work in rural home beautification to reach ever-increasing numbers of rural people through practical demonstrations.
4. That all service and garden organizations be encouraged to sponsor beautification projects for the betterment of the entire community, with special reference to schools, churches, and community buildings. We suggest that special emphasis be given to renovation and beautification of the often neglected rural cemetery. We further suggest that action be taken by all rural communities to establish suitable commemorative plantings to be located in parks, recreational centers, and places of natural beauty.
5. A continuation and expansion of rural roadside beautification. In addition we urge the continued opposition to unsightly bill-boards and roadside stands by all groups interested in horticulture.
6. That permanent veterans' hospital grounds be beautified, using the patients in the work of planning, planting, and maintaining these surroundings.
7. We recommend that a specialist in ornamental horticulture be appointed on the Federal level to coordinate a broad program in ornamental gardening.
8. Whereas, it is impossible for a very small group, not representative of the entire country and limited to a few hours of meeting, to do more than make a few suggestions; therefore, we earnestly recommend that a somewhat larger, more representative, and more permanent committee be set up to meet annually for the purpose of determining and suggesting wide general policies, these policies then to be adjusted to the needs of the several States. We definitely recommend that regional and national meetings be held.

A. O. Rasmussen, Chairman

COMMITTEE

John E. Alsup  
Samuel W. Hamilton  
M. P. Jones  
Mrs. R. P. McCullough  
Arnold Nicholson  
A. O. Rasmussen

Madge J. Reese  
Lee A. Somers  
Harvey F. Tate  
Howard C. Taylor  
Albert E. Wilkinson

NATIONAL VICTORY GARDEN CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON, D.C., NOVEMBER 28-29, 1944

REPORT OF COMMITTEE NO. 5 - ORGANIZING, SPONSORING AND PROMOTING VICTORY  
AND POST-WAR GARDEN AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

The committee made the following recommendations:

1. That the Department of Agriculture garden committee and the National Garden Advisory Committee start making post-war garden plans and call the necessary conferences to carry on such plans; and present these plans at a meeting to be called at the earliest possible time.
2. That the Victory garden movement be guided by a representative National garden advisory committee into a comprehensive home garden program as the war comes to an end; that increasing emphasis be placed on all phases of gardening, including the decorative and home food-production phases. That the post-war program also aim to influence general beautification of town and countryside at many points outside of the home grounds, as for example, in better planned real estate developments, parks, streets, highways, and zoning.
3. No long term gardening program would be complete without recognition of the training and guidance of youth. The committee recommends that the youth serving agencies, both public and private, vigorously continue their wartime gardening programs and plan to extend same into the period of peace.
4. The Committee recommends that we adopt the suggestions of the Department of Agriculture for promoting Victory gardens in 1945. These include, preparation of information kit, advertising folder, cooperation with organizations interested in gardening, schools, radio, press, motion pictures, and publications.
5. Because of the fine job done by the Office of War Information and the War Advertising Council in 1943 and 1944, we recommend the conference extend its thanks. Because Victory gardens are as important a war program in 1945 as in previous years, we respectfully request their continued support and cooperation.
6. We recommend that garden leaders and others responsible be urged to supply to newspapers and radio stations within their States an authoritative garden column, and that same groups initiate and distribute to newspapers copy of series of Victory garden ads which might be sponsored.
7. We recommend that the Department of Agriculture as the Office of Civilian Defense to urge the State defense councils to continue their Victory garden programs in 1945.



8. Industrial and commercial organizations have contributed enormously to the success of the Victory garden program through the fostering of employee gardens, home food preservation projects, harvest shows and promotional campaigns. All these companies and their affiliated service organizations are urged to continue their efforts and to broaden them into permanent post-war programs for employee welfare, morale and improved industrial relations.
9. We recommend that the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the War Food Administration and the various State Extension Services cooperate with urban communities in employing horticultural extension agents when such communities are ready for the work. Such horticultural extension agents will contribute much in maintaining interest in Victory gardening, in organizing the work and developing a most helpful educational service not only with Victory gardeners but also with problems of home grounds and civic improvement.

Ernest G. Moore, Chairman

COMMITTEE 5.

E. H. Bakken  
W. R. Beattie  
Clement G. Bowers  
Alton E. Porter  
James H. Burdett  
W. Atlee Burpee, Jr.  
E. S. Boerner  
R. Milton Carleton  
Thos. D. Faulkner  
Aline Kate Fox  
W. Ray Hastings  
Mrs. L. M. Hull  
Dorothy H. Jenkins  
Paul C. Johnson  
J. W. Johnston  
Hal W. Johnston  
Mrs. Bartlett F. Johnston, Sr.  
Oscar R. LeBeau  
L. L. Longsdorf

Joseph J. Lane  
Walter A. Lloyd  
Wm. E. Lyons  
E. G. Moore  
Harry E. Malter  
Warren B. Mack  
Roy Magruder  
Robert North  
Richard C. Potter  
B. S. Pickett  
Robert Pyle  
Samuel H. Reck  
J. Franklin Styer  
Nell Enloe Smith  
E. K. Thomas  
Richard P. White  
Andrew S. Wing  
Carl F. Wedell  
Paul R. Young

The Following Is a Partial List of Those Who Attended the Conference

R. C. Allen	American Rose Society
Mrs. E. Page Allinson	National Council State Garden Clubs of Pa.
William G. Amstein	Horticulturist, Kansas State College
E. H. Bakken	Boy Scouts of America
W. R. Ballard	Horticulturist, University of Maryland
W. R. Beattie	National Broadcasting Company
B. J. Benson	Swift and Company
E. S. Boerner	Jackson and Perkins
Clement G. Bowers	New York
Floyd Bradley	American Seed Trade Association
James H. Burdett	National Garden Bureau
George E. Burkhardt	County 4-H Club Agent, New York
W. Atlee Burpee, Jr.	W. Atlee Burpee Co. Seed Growers
Mrs. J. H. Caldwell	Pittsburgh Garden Center
Harry Candy	Peter Henderson Company
R. Milton Carleton	Men's Garden Clubs of America
William R. Cole	Extension Service, Massachusetts
Prentice Cooper	Governor of Tennessee
L. W. Corbett	Northrup King and Co.
L. B. Dietrick	Extension Service, Virginia
Mrs. Chase Donaldson	American Red Cross
Chas. M. Drage	Horticulturist, Extension Service; Colorado
Edward I. Farrington	Massachusetts Horticultural Society
Thomas D. Faulkner	C. R. Burr & Co., Inc.
Geary Fisher	Gardener
Aline Kate Fox	Member Victory Garden Advisory Committee
J. Morton Franklin	Supervisor Victory Gardens Dist. of Columbia
Paul F. Frese	Flower Grower Magazine
Mrs. E. Wesley Frost	National Council State Garden Clubs, Inc.
C. T. Furrer	Standard Oil of California
W. H. Gaumnitz	U. S. Office of Education
J. H. Gourley	Horticulturist, Ohio State University
Harry A. Graves	Horticulturist, North Dakota Extension Service
Mrs. William G. Guthrie, Jr.	Greater N. Y. Victory Garden Division
Samuel W. Hamilton	U. S. Public Health Service
W. Ray Hastings	All-America Selections
J. R. Hepler	Horticulturist, University of New Hampshire
Fred G. Heuchling	Chicago Park District and O.C.D.
Chesley Hines	Horticulturist, Mississippi Extension Service
Albert Hoefer	State 4-H Club Leader, Cornell University
Mrs. Lewis M. Hull	Garden Clubs of New Jersey
Thorothy H. Jenkins	New York Times
Paul C. Johnson	Editor, Minnesota Extension Service
Mrs. Bartlett F. Johnston, Sr.	Maryland Victory Garden Committee
Hal W. Johnston	Stecher-Traung Lithograph Corp.
J. W. Johnston	New York Herald Tribune
Matthew M. Kearney	Gardener, Dumbarton Oaks
Edna K. Klinge	Maryland Victory Gardens
Paul R. Krone	Horticulturist, Michigan State College

Joseph J. Lane  
L. L. Longsdorf  
William E. Lyons  
Warren B. Mack  
R. J. MacKinnon  
Harry E. Malter  
Mrs. R. P. McCullough  
Ray S. Marsh  
Rudolph J. Mohr  
A. C. Morgan  
Harry E. Myers  
Arnold Nicholson  
Lester J. Norris  
W. C. Pelton  
B. S. Pickett  
Ruth Mosher Place  
Richard C. Potter  
Robert Pyle  
Elmo Ragsdale  
A. O. Rasmussen  
Samuel H. Reck  
Victor H. Ries  
Robert H. Roland  
Alexander Sehlmeier  
E. L. D. Seymour  
Mrs. Oakley Sheldon  
A. E. Schilletter  
Lee A. Somers  
Paul Stark  
Mrs. Ruth K. Strawbridge  
J. Franklin Styer  
Mrs. Edward C. Sweeney  
T. J. Talbert  
Harvey F. Tate  
Howard C. Taylor  
Wilbur H. Thies  
E. K. Thomas  
Mrs. Stephen G. Van Hoesen  
Otto Veerhoff  
Carl F. Wedell  
W. R. Whitacre  
Richard P. White  
Albert E. Wilkinson  
Charles M. Winchester, Jr.  
Andrew S. Wing  
Carl P. Witte  
Mrs. Fleeta Brownell Woodroffe  
Richardson Wright  
James O. Young  
Paul R. Young  
William H. Youngman

House and Garden Magazine  
Extension Editor, Kansas State College  
Firestone Tire and Rubber Co.  
Horticulturist, Pennsylvania State College  
Ferry Morse Seed Co.  
Greening Nursery Co.  
Garden Clubs, San Francisco  
Horticulturist, West Virginia Extension Service  
The Pullman Company  
The Florists Review  
Indianapolis News  
Country Gentleman Magazine  
Illinois Food Director  
Horticulturist, University of Tennessee  
Horticulturist, Iowa State College  
The Detroit News  
Worcester Victory Garden Committee, Mass.  
American Horticultural Union  
Horticulturist, Georgia Extension Service  
Horticulturist, Pennsylvania State College  
Extension Editor, Rutgers University  
Extension Service, Ohio State University  
Society of American Florists  
Stumpp & Walter Co.  
The American Home Magazine  
New York Victory Garden Division  
Horticulturist, Extension Dept., Clemson College  
Extension Garden Specialist, Univ. of Illinois  
National Victory Garden Institute  
Community Food Conservation Inc., Philadelphia  
Pennsylvania Victory Garden Committee  
American Women's Voluntary Services  
Horticulturist, University of Missouri  
Extension Horticulturist, Univ. of Arizona  
Rosedale Nurseries  
Horticulturist, Massachusetts State College  
Rhode Island Horticultural Society  
Camp Kilmer and Garden Clubs of New Jersey  
Horticulturist, North Carolina State College  
Greater New York Victory Garden Council  
Agr. Economist, Pennsylvania State College  
American Association of Nurserymen, Inc.  
University of Connecticut  
Flower Grower Magazine  
National Victory Garden Institute  
N. J. Federation of Shade Tree Commissions  
Better Homes and Gardens & Successful Farming  
House and Garden Magazine  
American Seed Trade Association  
Cleveland Public Schools  
The Washington Evening Star

War Food Administration  
Extension Service

Health and Contentment in Gardening\*

By Frederick P. Moersch, M.D.,  
Section on Neurology,  
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

The four horsemen of the Apocalypse are again in the saddle. War, plague, famine and death ride heavily over the earth. Fear, pain and depression haunt us as evil spirits. Little wonder that we worry and have nervous fatigue and sleepless nights. How could it be otherwise? Such is the world in which we find ourselves today and in which we must make our emotional adjustments to gain some peace of mind.

For the soldier there are work, excitement and discipline. His lot is a hard one and he must steel himself to the task. His burden makes ours none the lighter, for we lack the purpose and determination that carry him to success.

In this turmoil of unrest we, the people, must find ways and means of maintaining our mental stability so as to serve well and not hinder the war effort by avoidable ill health. Some of us engaged in the daily routine of work have acquired hobbies to meet our needs in the role of health. Many of us are struggling aimlessly in search of health and peace of mind. We can do without happiness but we do crave contentment.

Worries Dissolve

What avenue of escape from worries and fears is more wholesome and healthful than gardening? We frequently hear of "rest cures" for weary nerves. There is no question that the "rest cure" has its place. Here we are more concerned with general rules of health intended to prevent jittery nerves. The guide for gardening we must leave to the expert. For the person who is on edge, anxious and sleepless, and has a heavy heart, there is no more hope-inspiring, restful, healthful recreation than gardening. One might speak properly of gardening as a "work cure." Physical health and mental health go hand in hand, and with our physical program of gardening we should be in a better position to maintain or gain mental health. This year, especially with all the enthusiasm regarding victory gardens, every beginner should have an added incentive in gardening. He may rest assured that he will be given ample help by his neighbors, his newspapers, journals and experts on gardening.

Rich and Poor Alike

Of all hobbies gardening is one of the simplest, most satisfying and most salutary. Nature has a way of beckoning us but its simplicity may fail to impress us in our hasty and superficial search for happiness. The very simplicity of gardening is one of its chief assets. Burroughs in "Fresh Fields," referred to gardening as a means of play for both the rich

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\*From The Minnesota Horticulturist, May 1943, pp. 75-76.

and the poor. The expert gardener can never explore the wonders of nature completely. The novice is rewarded speedily for his mundane efforts. With the growth that he fosters there develops within himself a mental growth, a feeling of power and satisfaction. Certainly we should hardly expect to discover that very fountain of health in our own backyard.

Gardening, like any constructive hobby, tends to grow and new interests are added rapidly. What was at first a mere means of occupying a few spare hours gradually unfolds into a world of new wonders. As Cabot has so well stated, play should serve as recreation and re-creation. This above all is true of gardening. Some hobbies demand much time, special training and financial outlay, all of which tend to frighten and discourage the beginner. Start the garden with simple plans and modest tastes. A single season should demonstrate one's love for gardening and the wisdom of expansion. The real purpose of gardening is not to be measured in the abundance of the flowers or of the fruits but rather in one's own efforts and in the execution for one's own plans. The very growth of the hobby fulfills the requirements for good mental health.

Gardening offers one a delightful method of daily exercise. The muscles are made firm, the digestion improves and the nerves become relaxed. In this new and expanding world of fresh air and sunshine, one's entire outlook on life seems to broaden. One gradually develops a philosophy of tranquility. For a vicious life cycle one substitutes a healthy pattern of life. Work becomes a pleasure and the resulting wholesome fatigue serves as a tonic to body and soul.

As the gardener's interests take root the leisure moments of the day and the troubled hours of the night are turned to constructive thinking. Healthy thoughts gradually replace melancholy thoughts. The evil spirits of anxiety, worry and fear find it more and more difficult to intrude themselves on us. In place of wakeful nights spent in worrying about things we cannot help, it becomes possible to plan the work for the morrow enjoyably and fall asleep dreaming of roses rather than stubborn sheep.

There is something seductive about the attachment one develops for the soil. There are so much to see, so much to learn and so many little things to do. There is no time for boredom or unhealthy thinking. There are flowers and vegetables to plant, the soil to turn, new shrubs, or a new ground cover to try on some barren slope. There are books and also "The Minnesota Horticulturist" to read, the "Garden Club" to attend and the neighbor's garden to visit. One accomplishment leads to another victory, not to mention victory over self.

#### New Adventures

There is an endless chain of adventure in gardening. From the early spring seeding until the late fall harvest we delight in the pleasing intoxication that comes from close communion with nature. The early morning with its peace and quiet becomes a treasured hour. Even the birds take on a new significance and perhaps this will be the first summer that we really come to know the habits of the wren, the grosbeak and possibly the bluebird.

We may even learn the song of the oriole and the call of the cardinal, that wonderful bird that is so readily encouraged to spend the winter with us and add a bit of sunshine to each winter's day. What gardener does not soon learn to recognize the humming-bird moth, that ethereal creature that delights to hover over a bed of petunias at dusk! It is indeed difficult to remain morose in the garden.

The true gardener will even find some delight in the more unpleasant tasks that are encountered in any endeavor. There are spraying to do, fertilizer to work into the soil, weeding, and other pests to subdue. Trimming, staking, pruning, cultivating, all are conducive to backache but on the morrow the ache is forgotten. The lover of the outdoors will even find ways and means of combating cut-worms, mosquitoes and the many other annoyances that are bound to present themselves in any garden from time to time.

So the months pass. Each sunrise brings fresh joys and new hopes. Each sunset comes too soon. The flowers have bloomed, the vegetables matured, the fruits ripened. The gardener, weary of limb but tranquil in spirit, sees by the advancing twilights that autumn's quieting hand is gently putting to rest in its earthly sepulcher the flowers, the plants, the shrubs and the trees that he has come to love. Winter follows quickly and with its silent requiem lays a warm mantle over the peaceful earth. The garden sleeps and the snow reflects the memories of a happy summer. But all is not left to memory. From our victory garden we should have on our shelves the fruits of our labor. Then, too, there are tools to clean, stakes to repair, bulbs to dry and perhaps a few flowers to display in a sunny window. If we have been wise we have arranged a bird-feed so we may watch the cardinals from our window. Finally, we have gained health and contentment. All these are rewards which will serve as a benediction throughout the winter for our toil and devotion.

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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
Extension Service  
Washington 25, D. C.

November 24, 1944

For your information

TO ALL STATE EXTENSION DIRECTORS:

Subject: Urban Victory Gardens.

The wonderful success of the Victory Garden programs of the last few years was achieved because of the popular and patriotic appeal of the movement and the continuous and enthusiastic support of a great number of private and public agencies and groups. In every State the Extension Service made this program a No. 1 project. The help given to the many million urban Victory gardeners by the extension services through special garden circulars, publicity, and news information, subject-matter meetings, and the organization and instruction of garden leaders counted much in making many first-time urban gardeners successful and satisfied with their efforts. Moreover, this help so freely given made many new friends for the State extension service, the county extension agents, and the State agricultural college.

Now, on the eve of a National Garden Conference, the Department and the War Food Administration again recommend that all who have fertile, sunny garden space should have a Victory Garden. Interest on the part of the public continues to be keen. A survey made this summer indicates that about 80 percent of those who had a vegetable garden will continue to have one after the war. Urban gardeners have found that home vegetable gardens give them fresh vegetables when and as they want them. They learned, also, that the vegetables they grew were superior in taste and quality to those purchased. Moreover, the home garden saved them money -- a not inconsiderable factor with many thousands earning only a modest income -- and the larger amounts of vegetables they consumed helped to maintain health. Then, too, our Victory gardeners found gardening to be good fun and wholesome recreation.

These experiences and joys are leading countless Victory gardeners to become interested in home grounds beautification and civic improvement. We think, here, that this may serve as a wonderful start in developing a wider appreciation nationally of gardening and the part home and city beautification can play in enriching life and improving health.

Now, these urban garden lovers will continue to need information and help with their vegetable gardens. There are also many industrial gardens which would benefit could more help be given them. And, in addition, urban gardeners will want more help with their lawns, flowers, shrubs, trees, and their problems of community improvement. We think, therefore, that the State extension service